

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 14-20 and 29-31 remain pending in this application. Claim 23 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 29-31 have been added.

Priority

Applicants request acknowledgment of the claim for priority in this case. The priority documents were filed in the parent application, Serial No. 10/125,608, filed April 19, 2002.

Specification

The specification has been amended to correct the description of Fig. 11. No drawing correction is necessary. No new matter has been added.

Abstract

The Abstract has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections in item no. 3 on page 2 of the Office Action.

35 U.S.C. §112

The claims have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections and rejections in items no. 4 and 5 of page 3 of the Office Action.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 14-16 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schabert et al (U.S. Patent No. 3,937,651). Claims 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hasegawa et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,252,922). Claims 14-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Aoki et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,608,879). Finally, claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hasegawa et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,787). These rejections are traversed as follows.

The present invention is directed to an equipment for handling a structure having a jack-type lifting machine used to carry a used reactor pressure vessel out of a nuclear reactor building or for carrying a new reactor pressure vessel into the nuclear reactor building. The equipment also has a beam installed above the nuclear reactor building so as to move the lifting machine thereon. The arrangement of the beam is such that the lifting machine does not pass over a spent fuel pool.

None of the cited references disclose these features of the presently claimed invention. Schabert et al disclose that a containment crane 18 disposed within concrete outer wall 19 of the nuclear reacting building for carrying out normal

maintenance work. Such type of crane is generally provided inside a nuclear reactor building. This crane is not disclosed to be one which is used to move a reactor pressure vessel as in the pending claims.

Hasegawa et al also disclose an overhead crane 8 that is used for working on an operation floor and, similar to Schabert et al, does routine maintenance work. On the other hand, Hasegawa et al disclose a large scale lifting machine 91 which is used to lift the nuclear reactor (see Fig. 9(a)). However, this type of lifting machine 91 is much different from the equipment presently being claimed.

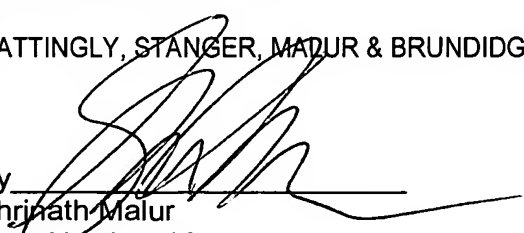
Finally, Aoki et al disclose an overhead crane 85 that is used to carry out normal maintenance work. Crane 36 is used to move the reactor pressure vessel, but does not employ any beam or the type as presently claimed. Therefore, this reference is also not applicable to the currently pending claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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